

OFFICIAL MINUTES
The Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation, Inc. Meeting
May 2, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paula Mason, Misti Lockie, Tom Jones, Saunia Phillips, Jeanne-Marie Kopecky, Tim Ledington

ABSENT: Mel Magnelli, Beth Cram, Janet Stout, Gretchen Spooner, Jeff Woods, Harv Lyter

Guest: Thelma Franek, Shelly Sliman, Brenda Jensen, Jan Zollinger

Minute Recorder: Misti Lockie

Paula opened the meeting at 3:05 pm.

Everyone introduced themselves around the table, and then the meeting was started with the funding request for Kyle Franek since they were present.

Thelma Franek is Kyle's grandmother, and was there to request funding for her grandson to purchase a computer program for his computer to continue summer studies. Kyle is visually impaired and unable to speak, but he can hear. The computer program costs \$545, and their request is for this amount.

The Board discussed this request, and Paula suggested the possibility of using a UI Assistive Technology Funding Grant to purchase this software. Paula will make initial contact with the granting agency, then forward Thelma to them. If this route does not work, then Thelma and Kyle can come back to the Board to request the funding at a later date.

Jan Zollinger was also present for her funding request, therefore the Board moved on to this item. Jan requested funding to cover the training and installation costs of a Braille transcription machine. The ISDB is in process of obtaining a \$40,000 (approx) grant to purchase this piece of equipment. Jan wishes the Foundation to cover costs for installation and training in the amount of \$1000.

This machine would enable ISDB to emboss books throughout the state for blind students. This would make it possible for ISDB to discontinue purchasing their Braille books, and also allow ISDB the opportunity to be able to sell books to other entities and states. This machine can do in one hour what their previous machine took eight hours to complete.

Previously, ISDB used their old machine to create 14 Braille books, and it saved them \$24000. This new machine could have an exponential savings for ISDB. There are 66 blind students across the state of Idaho. ISDB is currently required to provide all of their books.

After Jan leaves for the Board to discuss, Jeanne-Marie motioned that the \$1000 that has been specifically donated by the Gibney Family Foundation to go toward a visually impaired program be provided to Jan and her Braille transcription program. Tom seconded.

It was discussed that Misti and Jan would send an updated Thank You to the Gibney Family to let them know where their dollars were used. Misti will email the Gibney address to Jeanne-Marie and she will pass it on to Jan.

Tom asked if the fund request for Lorna Irwin was approved; Misti confirmed yes. Tom said he would pay her bill.

The minutes were reviewed. Jeanne-Marie motioned to accept the December, February and March minutes with changes. Saunia seconded.

The Board then moved on to the funding request from Shelly Sliman. She was asking for funds for summer tutors for three students. Magic Valley Youth & Adult Services has already assisted by providing \$100 toward the tutoring.

She is requesting a total of \$1000 for the tutoring. The three students are: Jacob Saunders, Blanca Lopez, and Melissa Guyman. Jacob may be able to use some extended school year funds possibly to cover \$15 of each hour of tutoring. The tutoring is \$25 per hour, twice per week for 10 weeks for each child.

Shelly left for the Board to discuss.

Jeanne-Marie moved that the Board give up to \$1100 for summer tutoring for the three students. Shelly would get the bills and provide to us. Saunia seconded the motion.

Tom then asked about the CSI tutoring books program and the funds for that – Misti said she would follow up with Paula to see what we do next.

The Board then discussed a funding request from Sharon Amoureux for an exam. It was determined that Sharon is past the age of which the Foundation assists, and that she is also not a visually impaired or hearing impaired student. Therefore she is not eligible for any funding from the Foundation. Misti will send her a letter to explain.

The Board then moved on to the 2007 Scholarship Applicants. It was discussed that the criteria are basically that one deaf student receive \$500 and one blind student receive \$500. The students must be planning to use their scholarship to attend a college, university or training/vocational program, and they should portray this in their application. The scholarship money goes directly to their school of choice.

The Board reviewed each of the scholarship applications, and based on the criteria as well as the quality of the application materials, chose the following students to receive the scholarships:

Visually Impaired Student: Bradley Rudley

Hearing Impaired Student: Emilie Pennie

Misti will send all of the applicants a letter, whether they were chosen to receive a scholarship or not, and she will also send a letter to each of the winners' schools to notify them of the students' achievement.

Tom moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 pm. Jeanne-Marie seconded. The meeting was adjourned.